

**CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Paragraph 6 has been  
modified by the  
court.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the following Protective Order is issued to govern certain disclosures in this case:

1. **Scope.** All materials produced or adduced in the course of discovery, including initial disclosures, responses to discovery requests, deposition testimony and exhibits, and information derived directly therefrom (hereinafter collectively “documents”), shall be subject to this Order concerning Confidential Information as defined below. This Order is subject to the Local Rules of the Western District of Louisiana and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on matters of procedure and calculation of time periods.
2. **Confidential Information.** As used in this Order, “Confidential Information” means information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” by the producing party that falls within, among other items, one or more of the following categories: (a) information prohibited from disclosure by statute; (b) information that reveals trade secrets; (c) research, technical, commercial or financial information that the party has maintained as confidential; (d) medical information concerning any individual; (e) personal identity information; (f) income tax returns (including attached schedules and forms), W-2 forms and 1099 forms; and/or (g) personnel or employment records of a person who is not a party to the case. Information or documents that are available to the public may not be designated as Confidential Information.
3. **Designation.**
  - a. Procedure. A party may designate a document as Confidential Information for protection under this Order by placing or affixing the words “CONFIDENTIAL” on the document and on all copies in a manner that will not interfere with the

legibility of the document. As used in this Order, the term “copies” includes electronic images, duplicates, extracts, summaries or descriptions that contain the Confidential Information. The marking “CONFIDENTIAL” shall be applied prior to or at the time that the documents are produced or disclosed. Applying the marking “CONFIDENTIAL” to a document does not mean that the document has any status or protection by statute or otherwise except to the extent and for the purposes of this Order. Any copies made of any documents marked “CONFIDENTIAL” shall also be so marked, except that indices, electronic databases or lists of documents that do not contain substantial portions or images of the text of marked documents and do not otherwise disclose the substance of the Confidential Information are not required to be marked.

- b. Inadvertent Failure to Designate. An inadvertent failure to designate a document as Confidential Information does not, standing alone, waive the right to subsequently so designate the document; provided, however, that a failure to serve a timely Notice of Designation of deposition testimony as required by this Order at Paragraph 4, even if inadvertent, waives any protection for deposition testimony. If a party designates a document as Confidential Information after it was initially produced, the receiving party, on notification of the designation, must make a reasonable effort to assure that the document is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order. No party shall be found to have violated this Order for failing to maintain the

confidentiality of material during a time when that material has not been designated Confidential Information.

- c. Inspection of Materials Prior to Production. In the event that documents, materials or other information are made subject to inspection prior to their production, no marking of those materials need be made by the producing party at the time of that inspection. For purposes of such an inspection, all materials made available for the inspection shall be considered Confidential Information and subject to this Order at the time of the inspection. Thereafter, if any materials subject to that inspection are produced and the producing party wishes those materials to be considered Confidential Information under this Order, the producing party shall so designate them in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Order.
  - d. Certification by Counsel or Party. The designation of materials as Confidential Information is a certification by an attorney or a party appearing *pro se* that the document contains Confidential Information as defined in this order.<sup>1</sup>
4. **Depositions.** Deposition testimony is protected by this Order only if two distinct actions are taken with respect to that testimony. First, deposition testimony must be designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” on the record at the time the testimony is taken. Such designation shall be specific as to the portions that contain Confidential Information. Deposition testimony so designated shall be treated as Confidential Information protected by this Order until thirty (30) days after delivery of the transcript by the

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<sup>1</sup> By designating documents as confidential pursuant to this Order, counsel submits to the jurisdiction and authority of this Court concerning such designations and the enforcement of this Order.

court reporter to any party or the witness. Second, within thirty (30) days of the delivery of the transcript, a designating party may serve a Notice of Designation to all parties of record identifying the specific portions of the transcript that are designated Confidential Information, and thereafter those portions identified in the Notice of Designation shall be protected under the terms of this Order. The failure to serve a timely Notice of Designation waives any designation of deposition testimony as Confidential Information that was made on the record of the deposition, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Likewise, testimony cannot be subsequently designated as Confidential Information unless it was specifically so designated on the record during or immediately upon completion of the subject deposition.

**5. Protection of Confidential Material.**

- a. General Protections. Confidential Information shall not be used or disclosed by the parties, counsel for the parties or any other persons identified in subparagraph (b) for any purpose whatsoever other than in this litigation, which includes any appeal thereof.
- b. Limited Third-Party Disclosures. The parties and counsel for the parties shall not disclose or permit the disclosure of any Confidential Information to any third person or entity except as set forth in subparagraphs (1)-(9) below. Subject to these requirements, the following categories of persons may be allowed to review Confidential Information: (1) Counsel for the parties and employees of counsel who have responsibility for the action; (2) individual parties and officers, directors, employees, agents or representatives of a party but only to the extent counsel determines in good faith that the employee's

assistance is reasonably necessary to the conduct of the litigation in which the information is disclosed; (3) the Court and its personnel; (4) court reporters and recorders engaged for depositions and/or hearings; (5) those persons specifically engaged for the limited purpose of making copies of documents or organizing or processing documents, including outside vendors hired to process electronically stored documents; (6) consultants, investigators, or experts employed by the parties or counsel for the parties to assist in the preparation and trial of this action but only after such persons have completed the certification contained in Attachment A (“Acknowledgment of Understanding and Agreement to Be Bound by Protective Order”); (7) during their depositions, or in preparation for their trial or deposition testimony, witnesses in this action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary. Witnesses shall not retain a copy of documents containing Confidential Information, except witnesses may receive a copy of all exhibits marked at their depositions in connection with review of the transcripts. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that are designated as Confidential Information pursuant to the process set out in this Order must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Order. (8) The author or recipient of the document in the regular course of business (not including a person who received the document in the course of litigation); and (9) other persons only by written consent of the producing party or upon order of the Court and on such conditions as may be agreed upon or ordered.

- c. Control of Documents. Counsel for the parties shall make reasonable efforts to prevent unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure of Confidential Information. Counsel shall maintain the originals of the forms signed by persons acknowledging their obligations under this Order for a period of three (3) years after the termination of the case.
6. **Filing of Confidential Information.** This Order does not, standing alone, authorize the filing of any document under seal. Any party wishing to file a document designated as Confidential Information in connection with a motion, brief or other submission to the Court must comply with Local Rule 5.6. Parties should redact rather than file information under seal. MLH
7. **Challenges by a Party to Designation as Confidential Information.** The designation of any material or document as Confidential Information is subject to challenge by any party. The following procedure shall apply to any such challenge.
  - a. Meet and Confer. A party challenging the designation of Confidential Information must do so in good faith and must begin the process by conferring directly with counsel for the designating party, or directly with a party who is appearing *pro se*. In conferring, the challenging party must explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the designating party an opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the designation, and, if no change in designation is offered, to explain the basis for the designation. The designating party must respond to the challenge within five (5) business days.
  - b. Judicial Intervention. A party who elects to challenge a confidentiality designation may file and serve a motion that identifies the challenged material

and sets forth in detail the basis for the challenge. Each such motion must be accompanied by a competent certification that affirms that the movant has complied with the meet-and-confer requirements of this Order. The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the designating party. Until the Court rules on the challenge, all parties shall continue to treat the materials as Confidential Information under the terms of this Order.

8. **Action by the Court.** Applications to the Court for an order relating to materials or documents designated Confidential Information shall be by motion. Nothing in this Order or any action or agreement of a party under this Order shall limit the Court's authority to make orders concerning the disclosure of documents produced in discovery or at trial.
9. **Use of Confidential Documents or Information at Trial.** Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect the use of any document, material, or information at any trial or hearing. A party who intends to present or who anticipates that another party may present Confidential Information at a hearing or trial shall bring that issue to the Court's and parties' attention by motion or in a pretrial memorandum without disclosing the substance of the Confidential Information. The Court may thereafter make such orders as are necessary to govern the use of such documents or information at trial.
10. **Confidential Information Subpoenaed or Ordered Produced in Other Litigation.**
  - a. If a receiving party is served with a subpoena or an order issued in other litigation or regulatory or criminal investigation that would compel disclosure of any material or document designated in this action as Confidential

Information, the receiving party must so notify the designating party, in writing, immediately and in no event more than three (3) court days after receiving the subpoena or order. Such notification must include a copy of the subpoena or court order.

- b. The receiving party also must immediately inform, in writing, the person or entity that caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is the subject of this Order. In addition, the receiving party must deliver a copy of this Order promptly to the party in the other action that caused the subpoena to issue.
- c. The purpose of imposing these duties is to alert the issuing person or entity to the existence of this Order and to afford the designating party in this case an opportunity to make attempts to protect its Confidential Information in the court from which the subpoena or order issued. The designating party shall bear the burden and the expense of seeking protection in that court of its Confidential Information, and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a receiving party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another court. The obligations set forth in this paragraph remain in effect while the party has in its possession, custody or control Confidential Information by the other party to this case.

**11. Obligations upon Conclusion of Litigation.**

- a. Order Continues in Force. Unless otherwise agreed upon or ordered, this Order shall remain in force after dismissal or entry of final judgment not subject to further appeal.



- b. Obligations upon Conclusion of Litigation. Within sixty (60) days after dismissal or entry of final judgment not subject to further appeal, the producing party may make demand upon the receiving party for return or destruction of all materials considered Confidential Information under this Order, including “copies” as defined above. No party shall have any obligation to return or destroy Confidential Information if such a demand is not timely made. Where the demand for return or destruction is timely made, the subject documents shall be returned to the producing party unless: (1) the document has been offered into evidence or filed without restriction as to disclosure; (2) the parties agree to destruction to the extent practicable in lieu of return; or (3) as to documents bearing the notations, summations, or other mental impressions of the receiving party (*i.e.*, attorney work product), that party elects to destroy the documents and certifies to the producing party that it has done so; or (4) to the extent retention is required by other laws, rules or regulations, including those of the Louisiana State Bar Association and Louisiana Supreme Court. The parties may choose to agree that the receiving party shall destroy documents containing Confidential Information and certify the fact of destruction, and that the receiving party shall not be required to locate, isolate and return e-mails (including attachments to e-mails) that may include Confidential Information or Confidential Information contained in deposition transcripts or drafts or final expert reports.
- c. Retention of Work Product and One Set of Filed Documents. Notwithstanding the above requirements to return or destroy documents, counsel may retain:

(1) attorney work product, including an index that refers or relates to designated Confidential Information, so long as that work product does not duplicate verbatim substantial portions of Confidential Information, and (2) one complete set of all documents filed with the Court including those filed under seal. Any retained Confidential Information shall continue to be protected under this Order. An attorney may use his or her own work product in subsequent litigation, provided that its use does not disclose or use Confidential Information or otherwise violate this Order.

- d. Deletion of Documents Filed under Seal from Electronic Case Filing (ECF) System. Filings under seal shall be deleted from the ECF system only upon order of the Court.

**12. Order Subject to Modification.** This Order shall be subject to modification by the Court on its own initiative or on motion of a party or any other person with standing concerning the subject matter.

**13. No Prior Judicial Determination.** This Order is entered based on the representations and agreements of the parties and for the purpose of facilitating discovery. Nothing herein shall be construed or presented as a judicial determination that any document or material designated Confidential Information by counsel or the parties is entitled to protection under Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or otherwise until such time as the Court may rule on a specific document or issue.

14. **Persons Bound.** This Order shall take effect when entered and shall be binding upon all counsel of record and their law firms, the parties, and persons made subject to this Order by its terms.

Shreveport, Louisiana, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.



HON. MARK L. HORNSBY  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

ATTACHMENT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that he has read the Confidentiality and Protective Order in the above-captioned action and attached hereto, understands the terms thereof and agrees to be bound by those terms. The undersigned submits to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana in matters relating to the aforementioned and attached Confidentiality and Protective Order and understands that the terms of the Order obligate him/her to use materials designated as Confidential Information in accordance with the Order solely for the purposes of the above-captioned action, and not to disclose any such Confidential Information to any other person, firm or concern. The undersigned acknowledges that violation of the Confidentiality and Protective Order may result in penalties for contempt of court.

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_